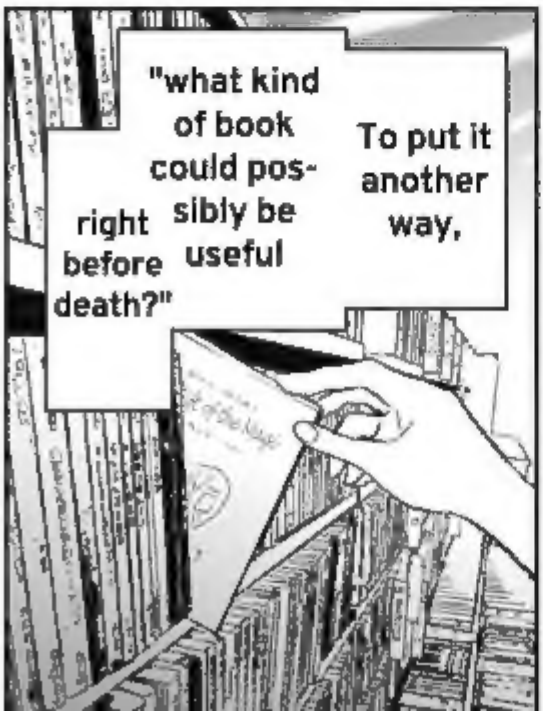
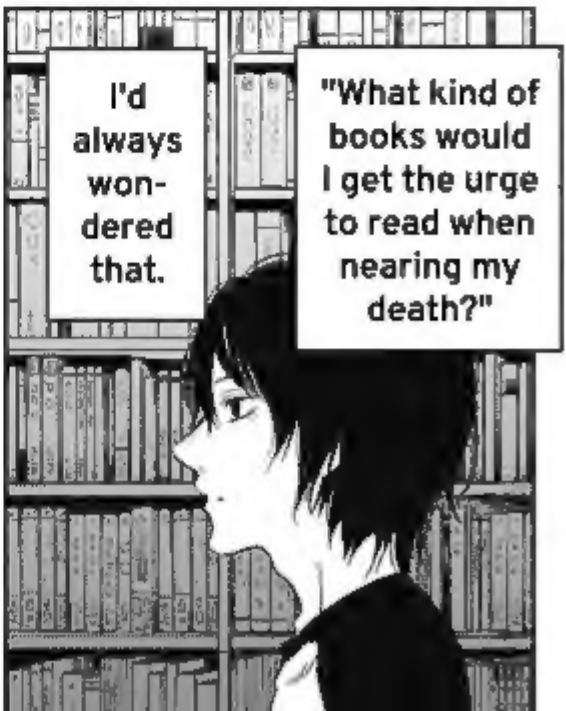
things
do come
together.

...

Let's waste some time.
Maybe somebody'll come home at night.


"what kind of book could possibly be useful right before death?"
To put it another way,


I'd always wondered that.
"What kind of books would I get the urge to read when nearing my death?"

If I'm still on the shelf in ten years,

I want you to meet Himeno.

Because Himeno's hopeless without me,

and I'm hopeless without Himeno.

What Himeno and I were waiting for

was "something" that validated our existence,

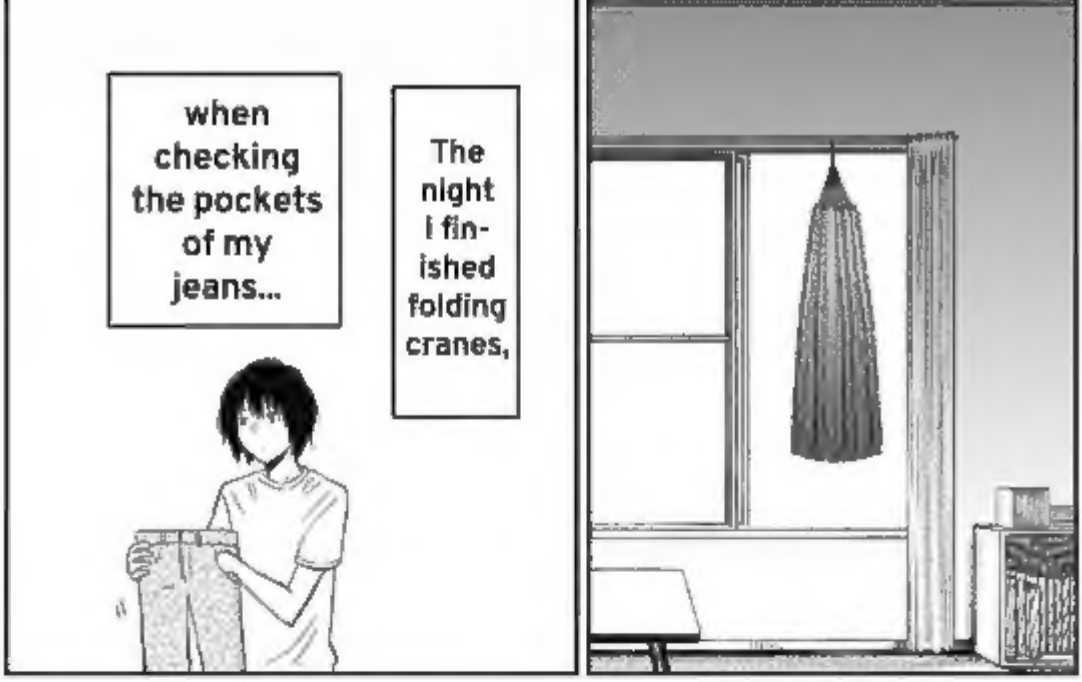
So famous, our classmates will have heart attacks from jealousy.
In 10 years, we'll have to get really rich and really famous.

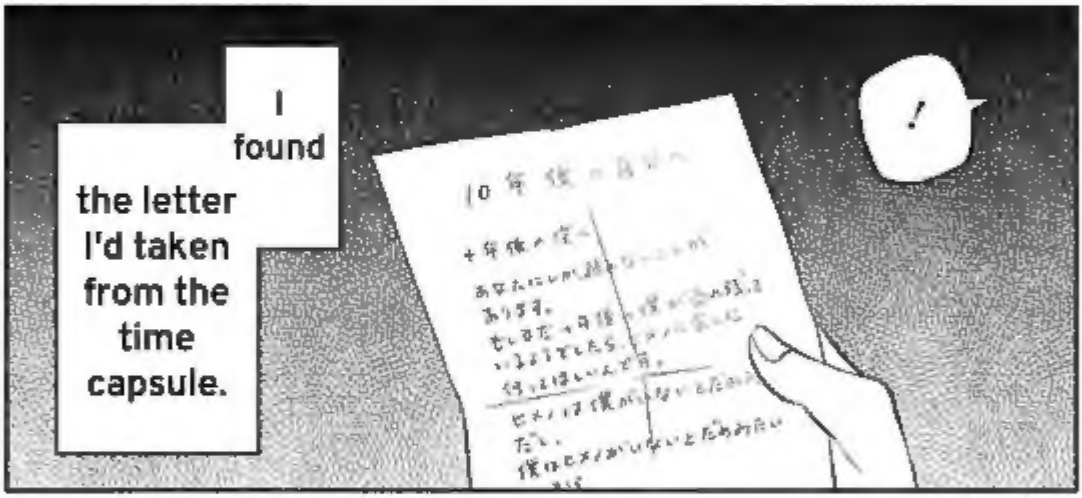
"something" that made up for everything.

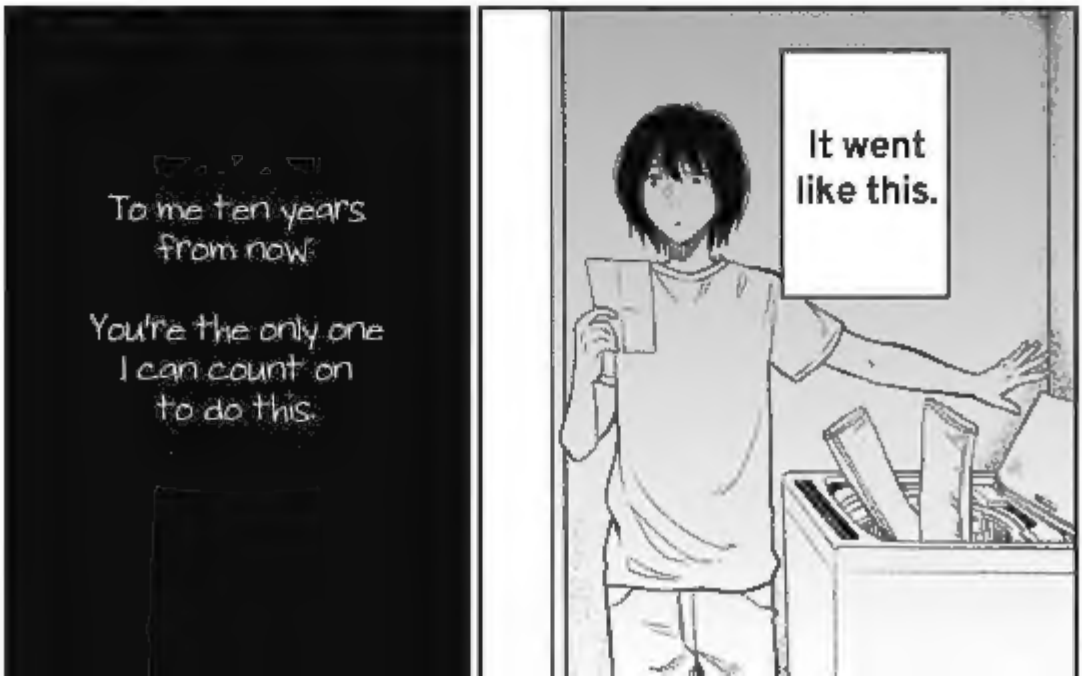
I did get a letter from Himeno.
Just once,

I couldn't help but think it didn't sound like Himeno at all....
No hint of sarcasm or an insulting word.
and other frivolous things.
She wrote about how she was busy with studies,

Never got a reply.
But in the end, I answered with a similarly banal letter.


when checking the pockets of my jeans...
The night I finished folding cranes,


I found the letter I'd taken from the time capsule.
!


To me ten years from now
You're the only one I can count on to do this.
It went like this.

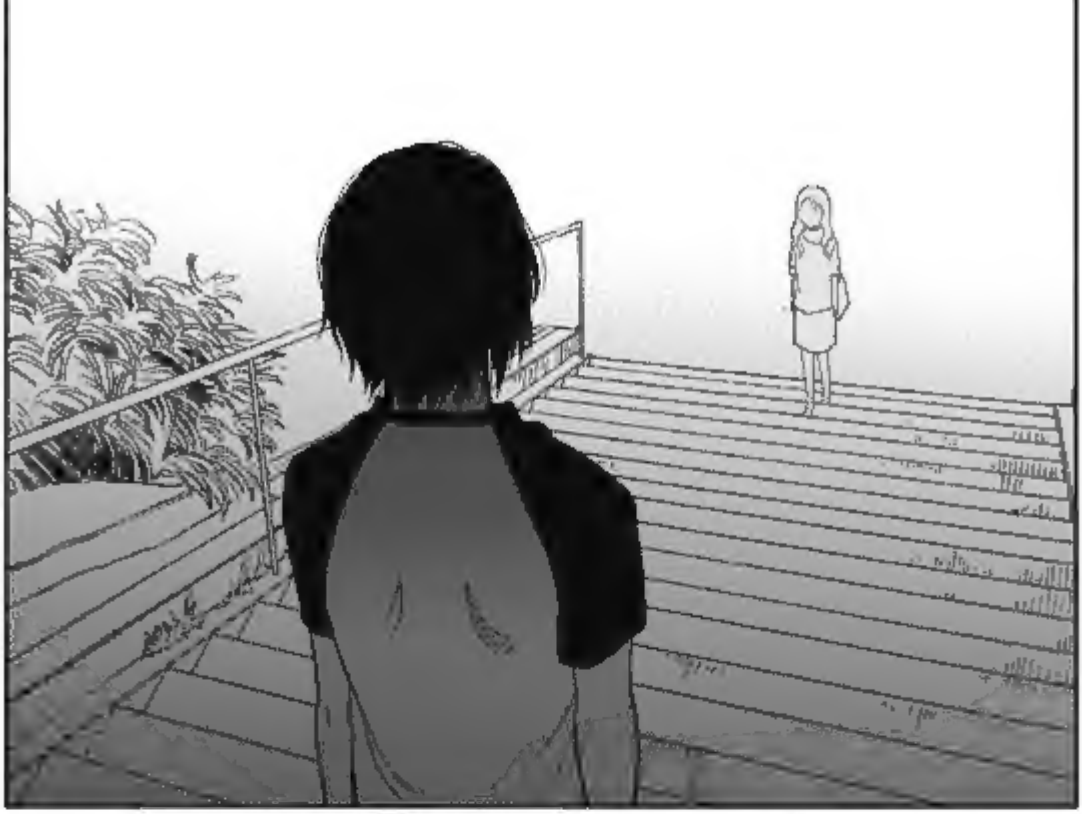
Maybe even tomorrow,
I'm thinking of going to Himeno's house.
You know if she's at her parents' place?
Indeed.
It seems she's been depending on them ever since her husband left.

Don't bring up her name so lightly.
I especially don't want to hear it out of your mouth.
Is that so.
I'll be more cautious henceforth.
!

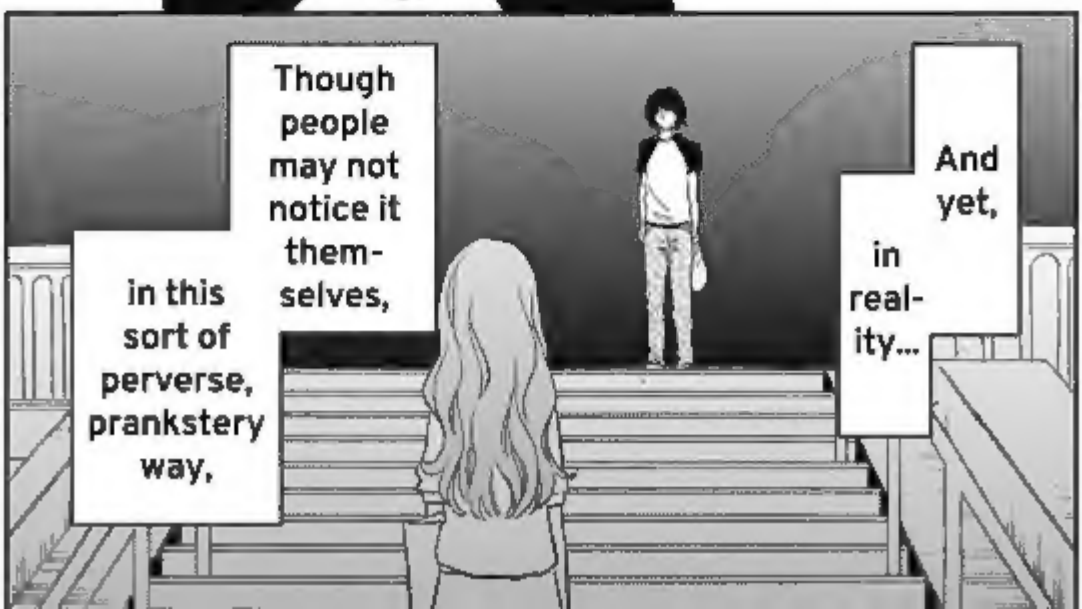
...

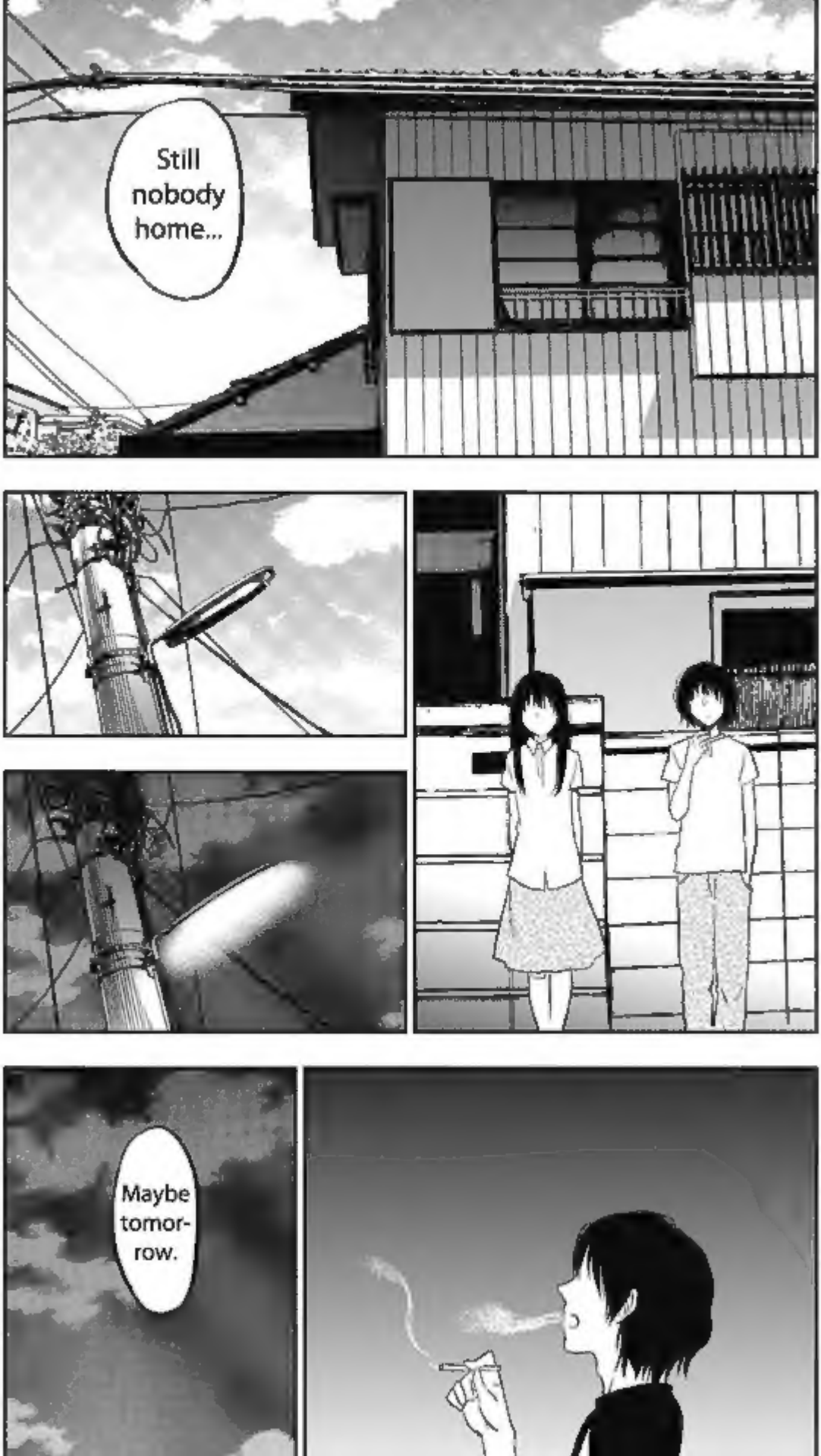
whew
Don't mention it.

...Thanks.

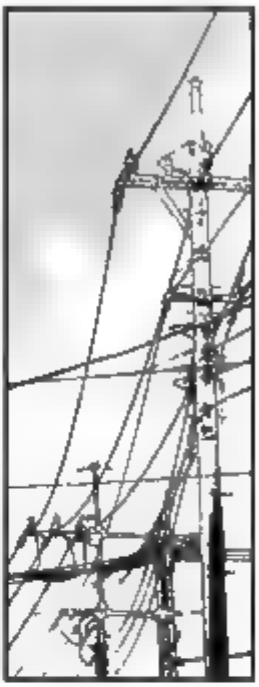


Some things are too good to be true.
So people say.


Though people may not notice it themselves,
in this sort of perverse, prankstery way,
And yet,
in reality...

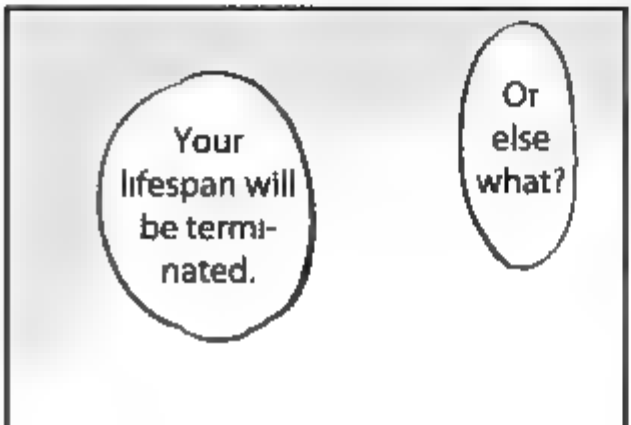

Still nobody home...
Maybe tomor-row.

And in two years' time...
she will be jumping to her death.



must not be separated by any more than 100 meters.
An observer and their target

I must apologize, but..
I can't let you go too far on your own.


Or else what?
Your lifespan will be termi-nated.

And if they don't, it won't be worth it.
... About Ms. Himeno.
Circumstances led her to give birth to a child at seventeen
She then dropped out of high school and married at eighteen, but divorced two years later.
Now, at twenty, she's raising the child by herself
...

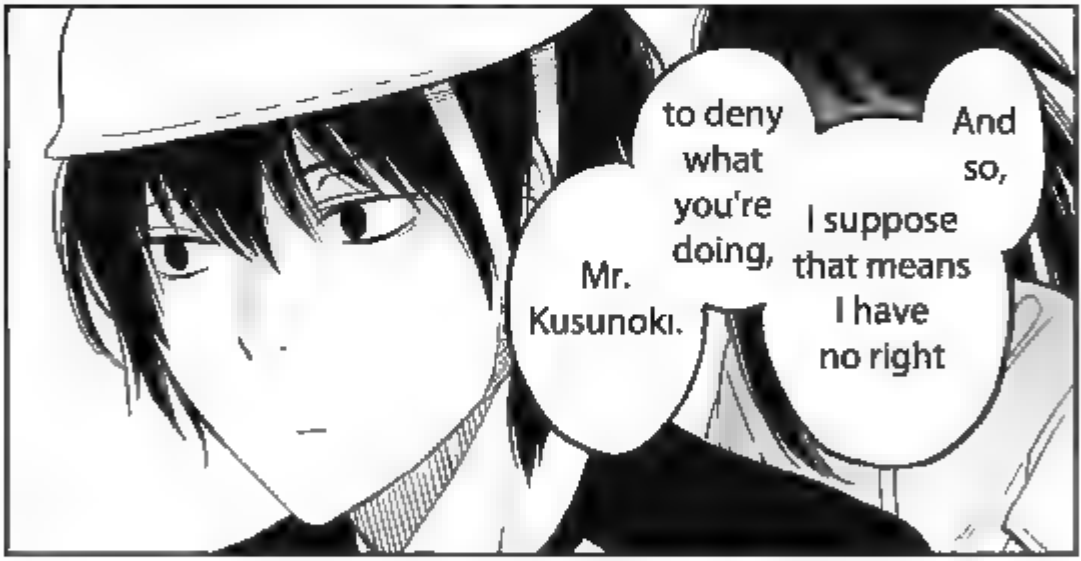
how would you spend your last months?
but if you were in my situation,
This isn't really a meaningful question,
Hey
I don't think I'd know until I was in that position.
Hmm
but you shouldn't talk to me in places like this
Um, I know I told you before,
glance
glance
?

Are you making a thousand paper cranes?

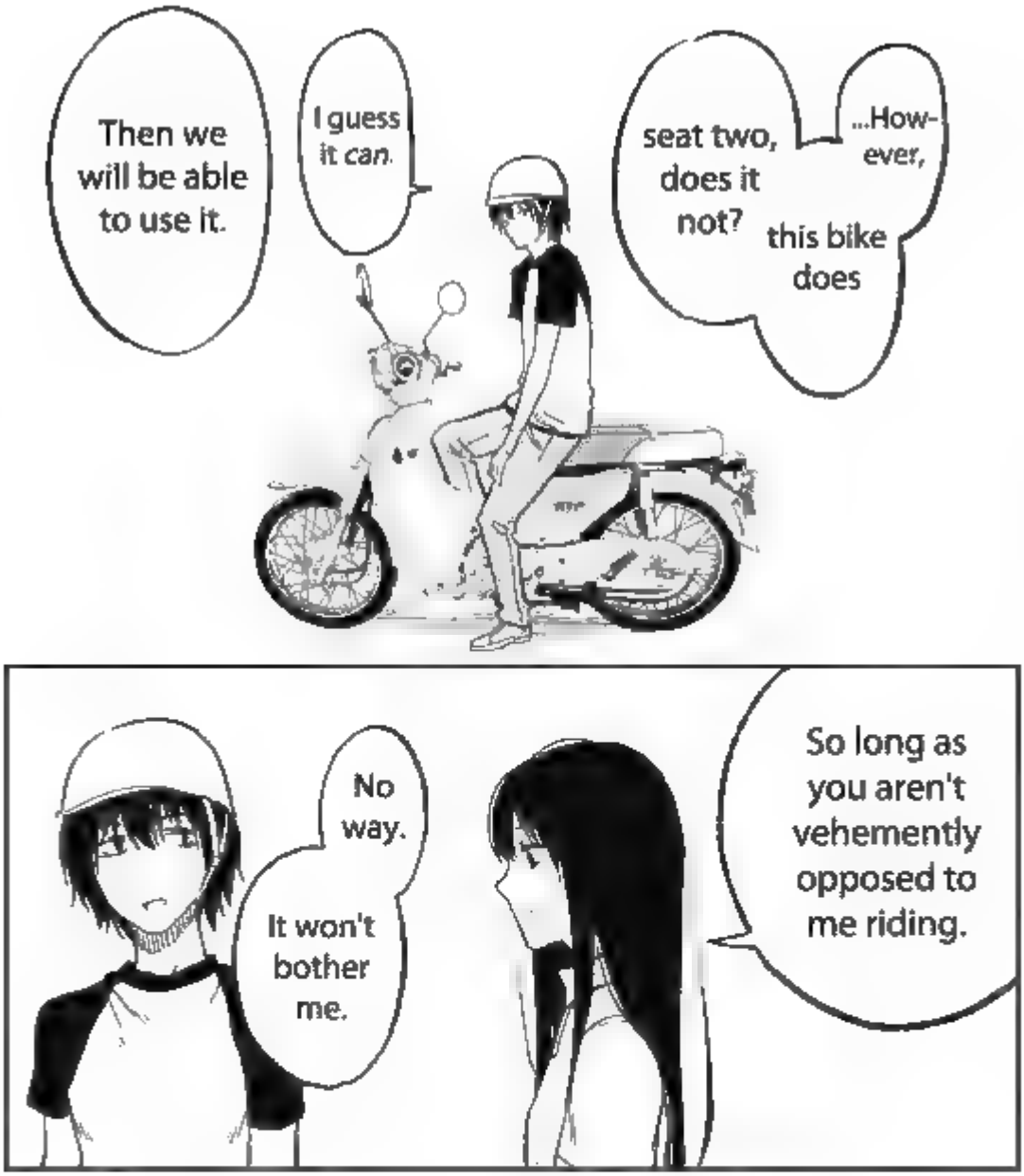
To wish myself a happy life as I head toward death.
To what end?
You intend to do this all by yourself?

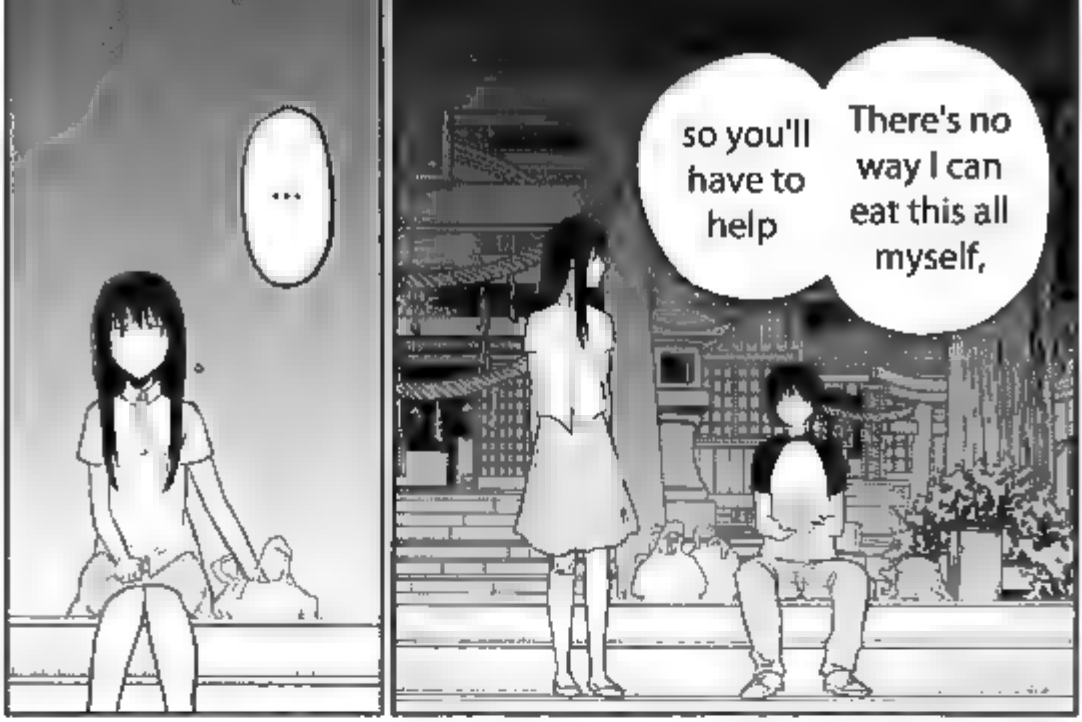
I filled the drab apartment with paper cranes of many colors.
I enjoyed the pointless work.

I think, as much as it might hurt me,
as much as I might be dis-appointed,
I too would still
go to meet them, in the end.


And so,
I suppose that means I have no right
to deny what you're doing,
Mr. Kusunoki.

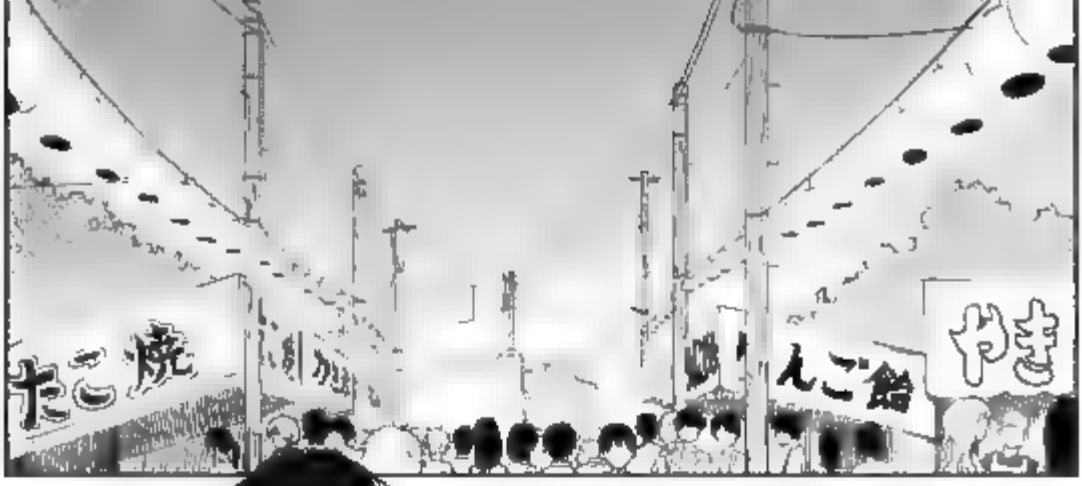
Talk about out of char-acter.
A lot more timid when it's about you, huh?
Well, I don't know anything
about my own future


Then we will be able to use it.
I guess it *can*.
seat two, does it not?
...However, this bike does
No way.
It won't bother me.
So long as you aren't vehemently opposed to me riding.
brrrrrm...


...
There's no way I can eat this all myself,
so you'll have to help

I'll indulge

urp...
Ahh
Guess going for a full tour was too much.

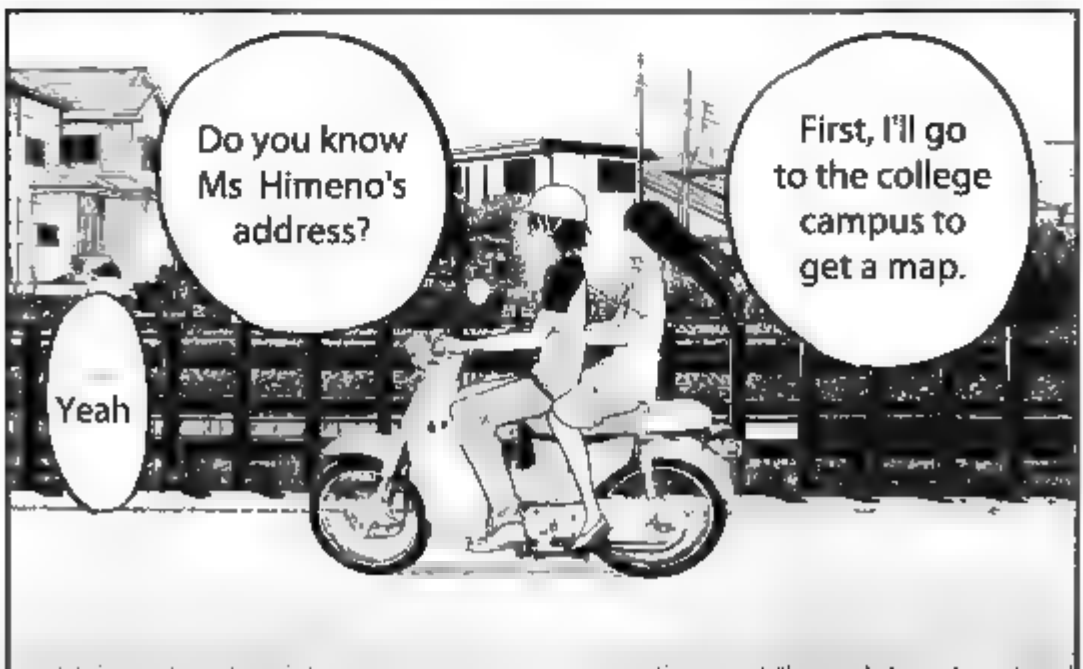

たこ焼
りんご飴
やき

I hadn't seen such a festival in ten years.

What are you buying all that for?
Dunno
I couldn't tell you myself.

Ever since Himeno left,
I'd stopped going to the local one.
焼

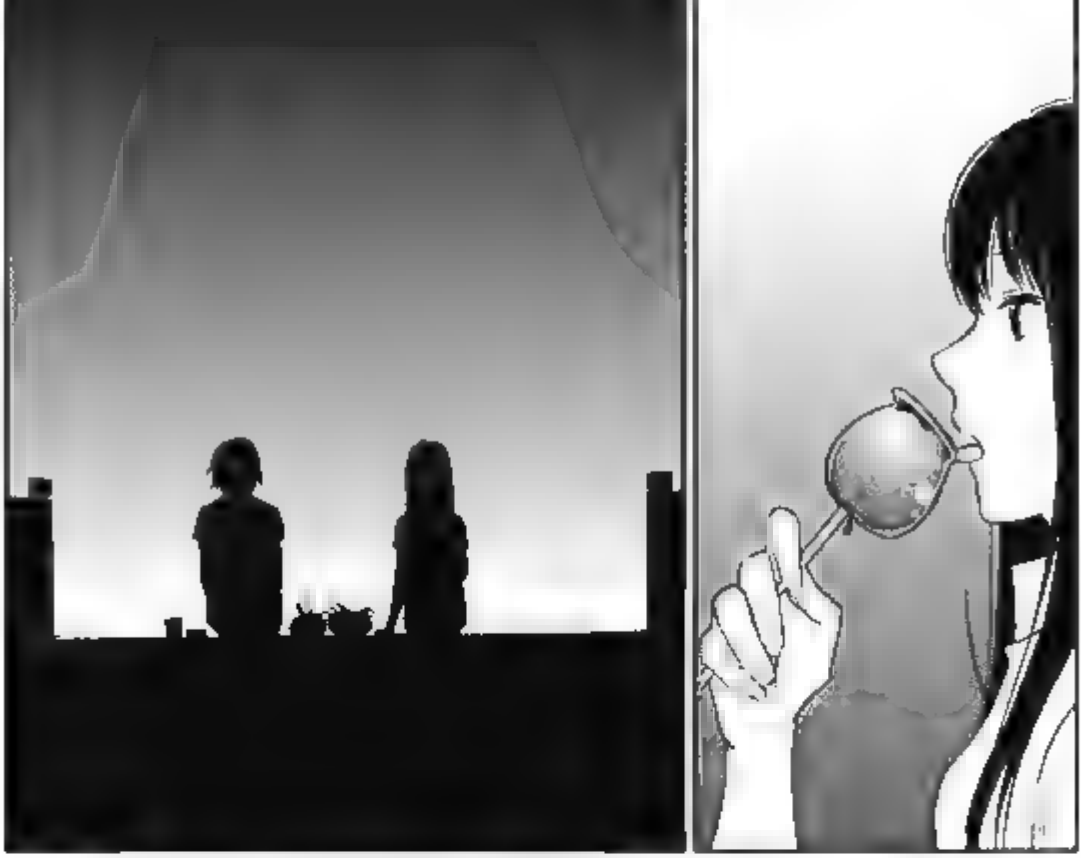
Pardon me.

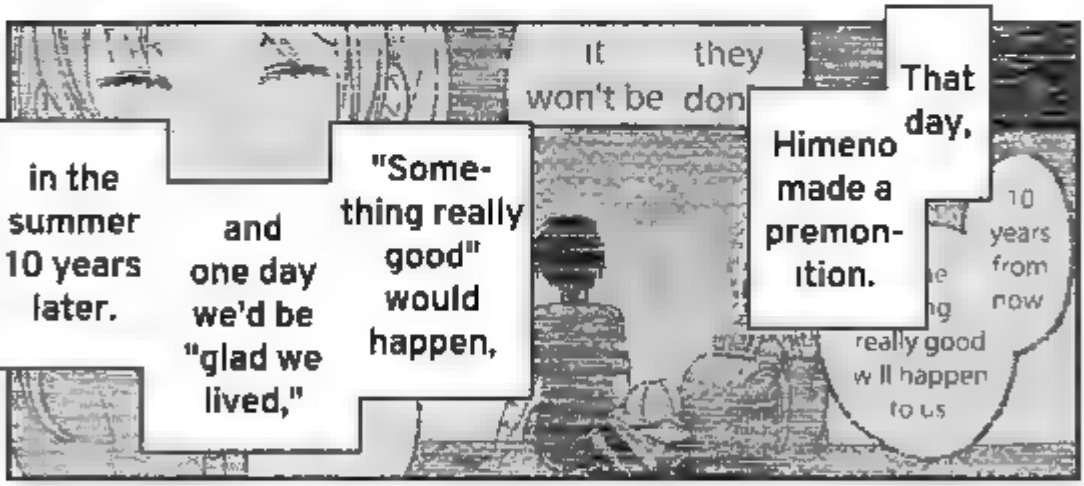

Do you know Ms Himeno's address?
First, I'll go to the college campus to get a map.
Yeah

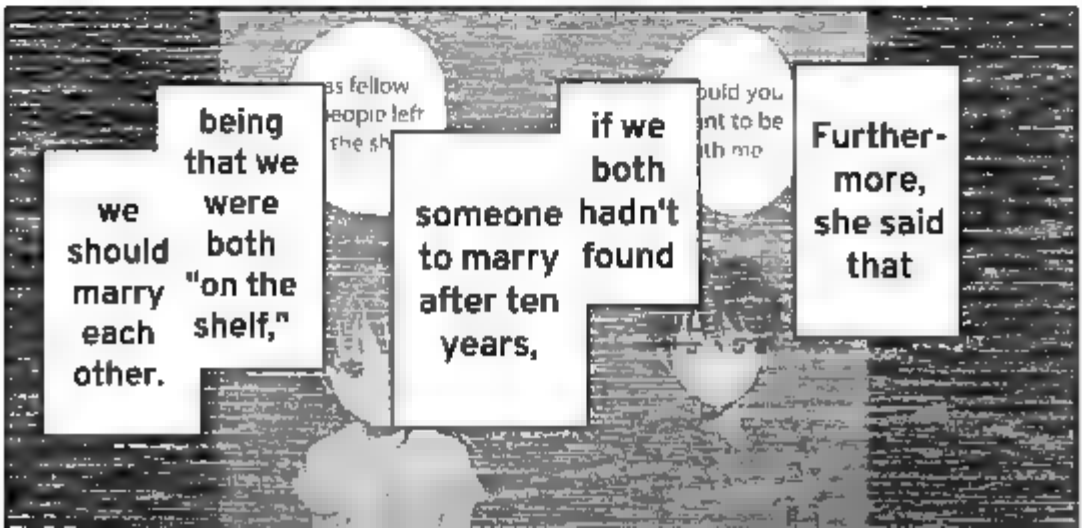
I am a strange guy.
Let 'em
They'll think you're a strange person who talks to himself.

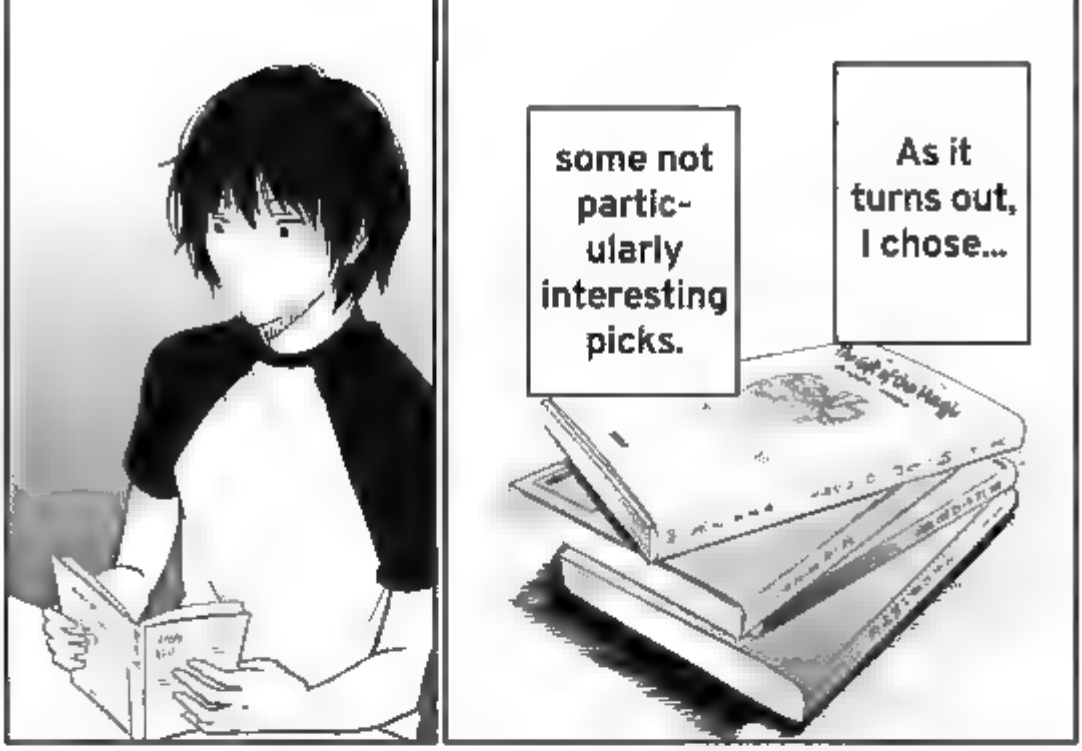
Better to remembered as a weirdo than not remembered at all.
In fact, I actively wanted to be weird.

If I myself had only a few months left to live, there are three things I would absolutely want to do.
About that question you asked I've been thinking.
... Um.

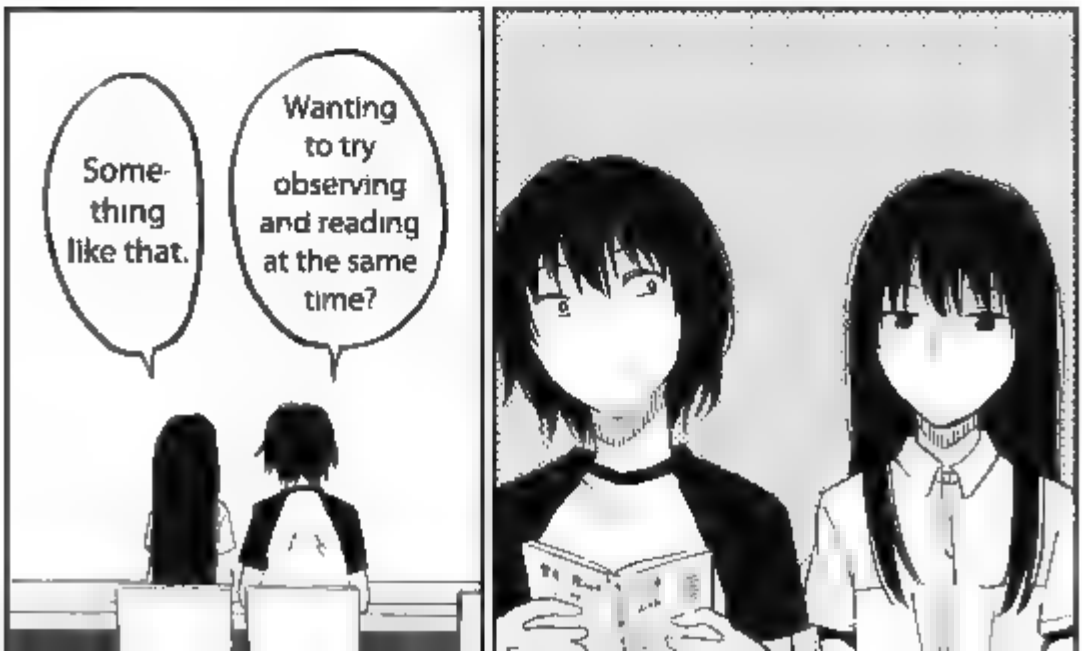


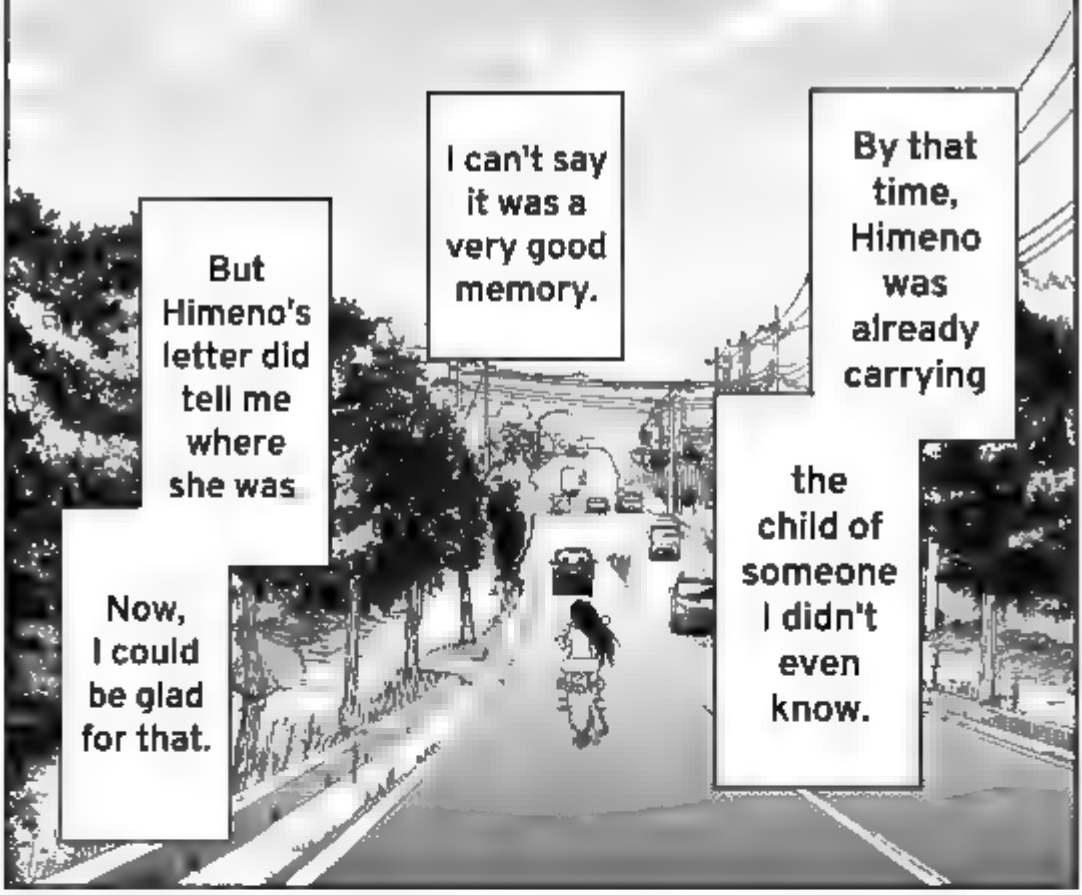

That day, Himeno made a premonition.
10 years from now really good will happen to us
it won't be they don
"Something really good" would happen,
and one day we'd be "glad we lived,"
in the summer 10 years later.

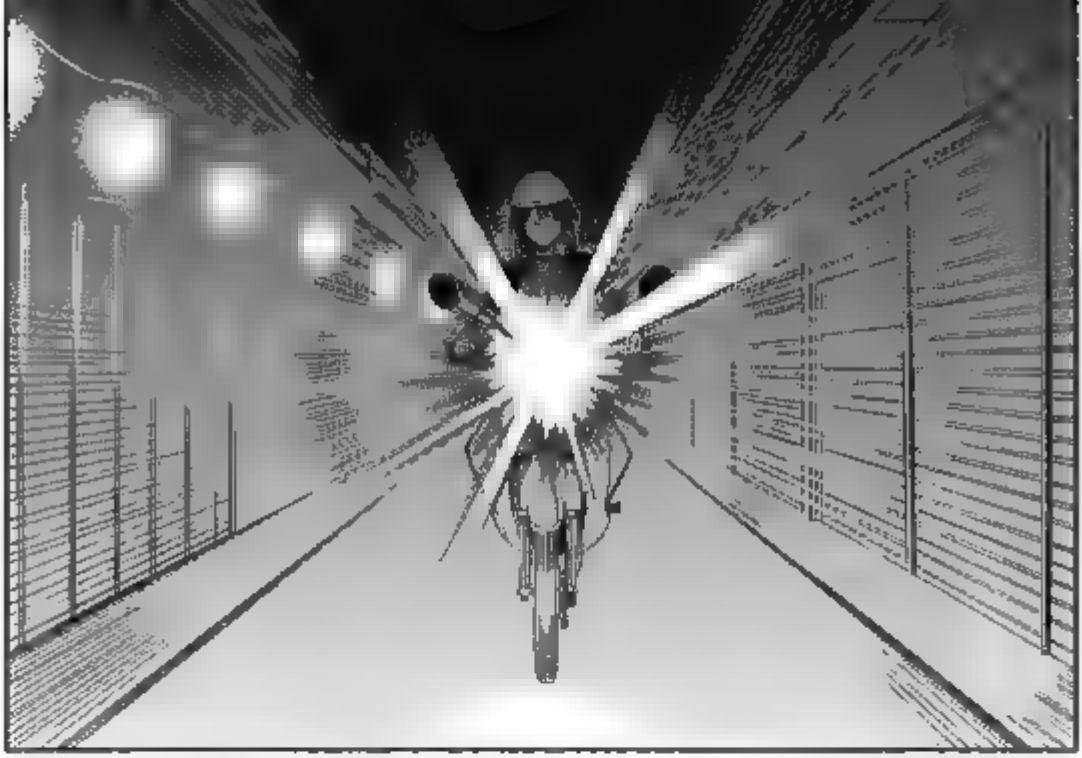

Furthermore, she said that
if we both hadn't found someone to marry after ten years,
being that we were both "on the shelf,"
we should marry each other.


some not partic-ularly interesting picks.
As it turns out, I chose...

scoot


Some-thing like that.
Wanting to try observing and reading at the same time?


But Himeno's letter did tell me where she was
I can't say it was a very good memory.
By that time, Himeno was already carrying
the child of someone I didn't even know.
Now, I could be glad for that.



Are you going to a festi-val?
The shrine past it
Want to drop by?

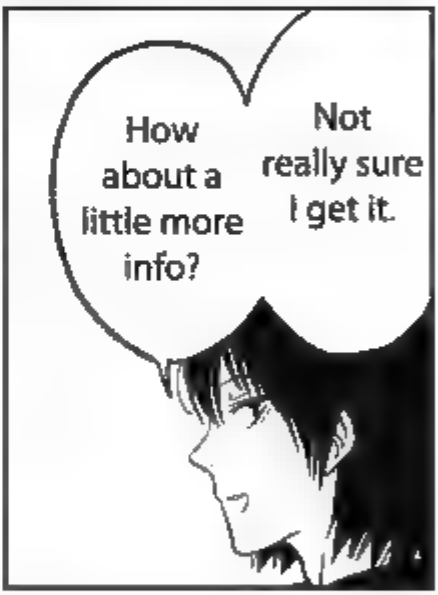
Read-ing like this, I wasn't just thinking about how I felt, but also how Miyagi felt reading the same part. Having that aware-ness seemed to make for more enriching reading.

She sure does have a calming smell to her,

I thought.

That's about all.
to go see a person who was important to me.
much like what you're doing,
And the third
to make a grave for my self
The second,
to go to a certain lake
The first,

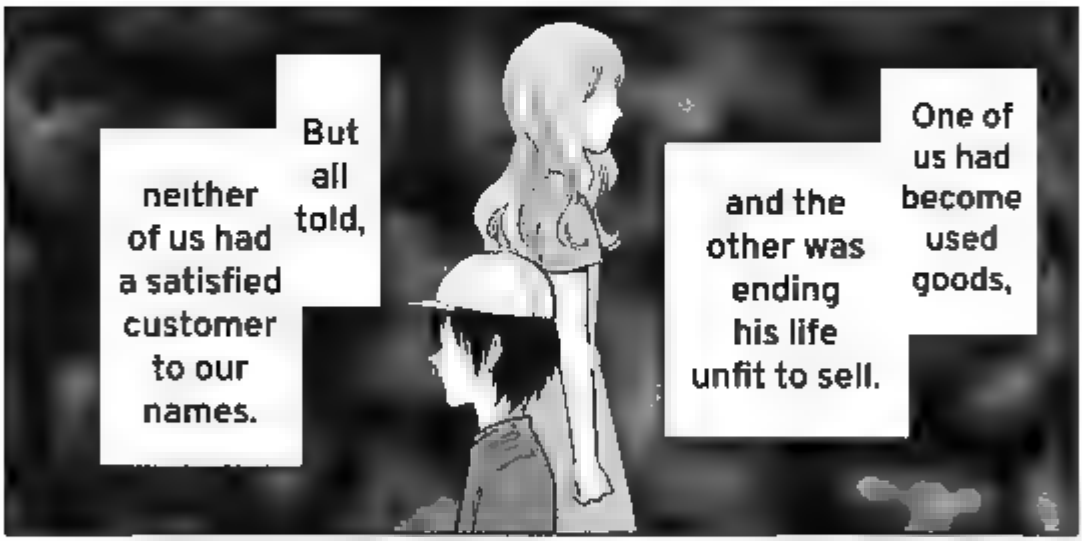
the view of the stars there being quite beautiful.
But I do recall, from my childhood,
The lake is just a lake.

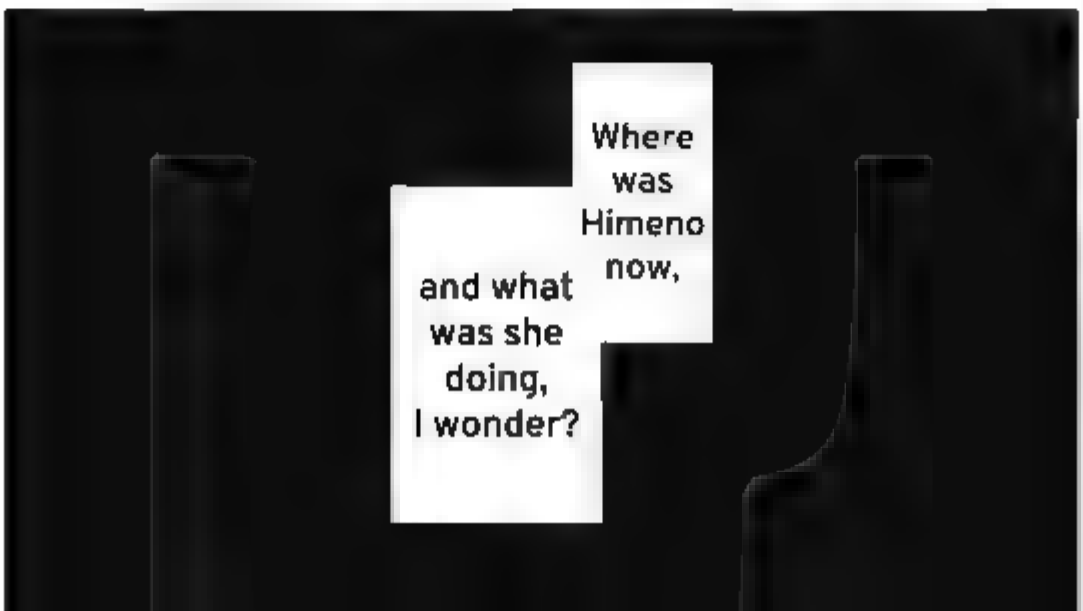

How about a little more info?
Not really sure I get it.

I see.
that starry lake is the most.
but as far as those I "know,"
There are, no doubt,
more beautiful sights in the world,

...And about the "person who was important to me"...
So the grave, you mean you wanna buy a good piece of land?
No Strictly speaking, if I just found a nice large rock and decided "This is my grave," even that would be fine
What's important is that whatever I decide to be my grave remains for at least a couple decades.
Huh.
Hm You would suppose right.
I suppose it's a guy?
Well, I'd rather not tell you, Mr. Kusunoki.

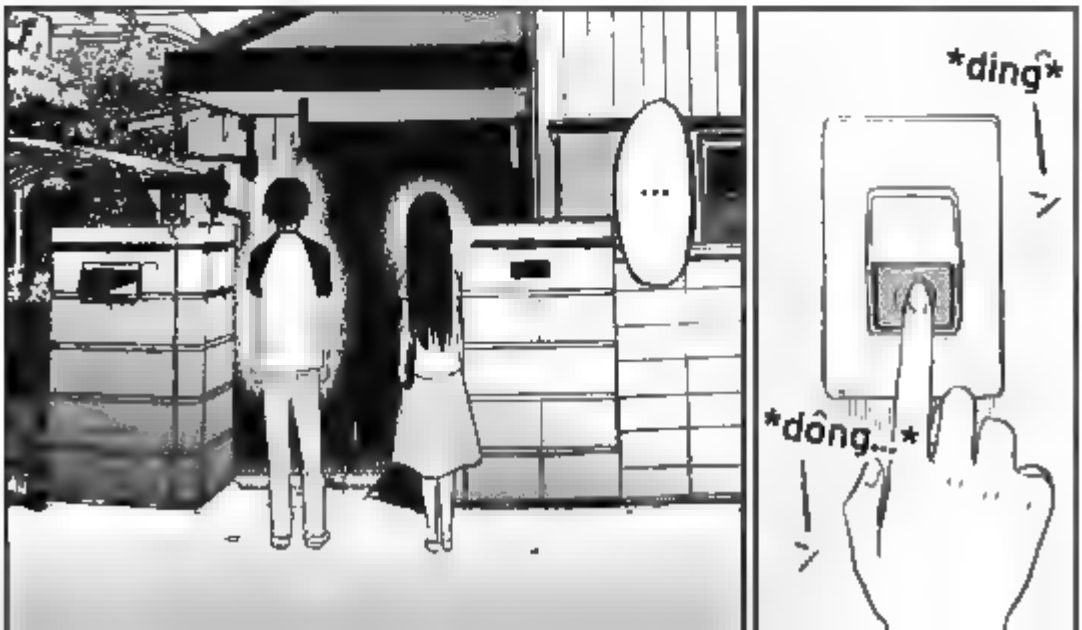
I was in that summer.
Well, right now,


But all told,
neither of us had a satisfied customer to our names.
One of us had become used goods,
and the other was ending his life unfit to sell.


Where was Himeno now,
and what was she doing, I wonder?

Himeno

There aren't any other "Himeno" houses around.
Guess this must be the one.


...
ding
dông...

As I went through recounting the cranes,
I found many that were too good to believe I made them.
881...
882...
883...
!

These ones must have been folded
by a certain nosy individual while I slept.

That went way too quickly

Sure,
it might just bring me even more pain.
But,
until I see it with my own eyes,
I can't give up.

Just one last time,
And...
I want to talk with her.
As thanks for giving me life,
I want to give her the 300,000 yen I got from selling it.

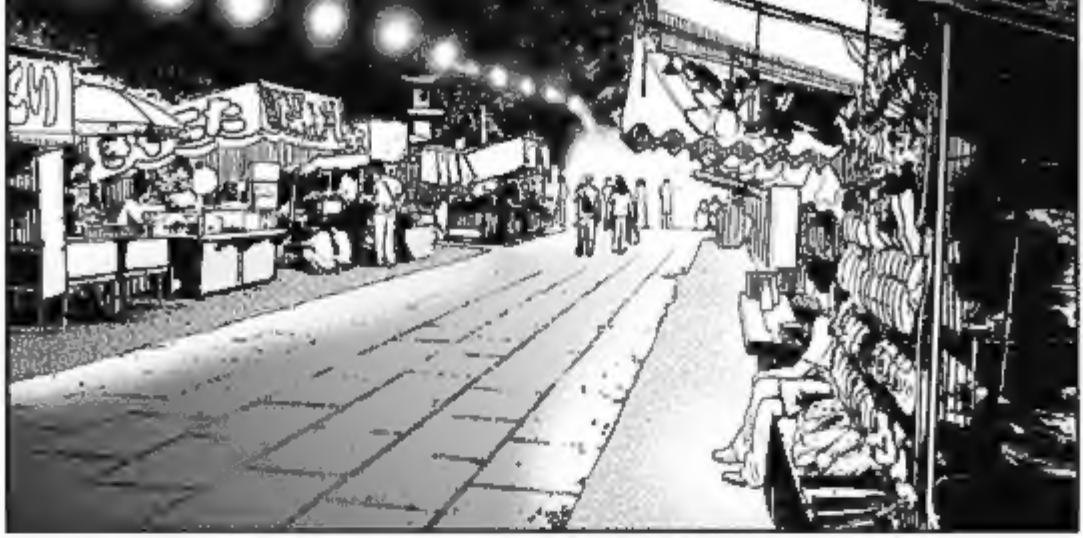
I won't stop you.
I can't say I don't understand the feeling myself.

寿命を買い取ってもらった。一年につき、一万円で。

I Sold Off My Lifespan, For 10,000 Yen A Year.

Chapter 7

Original: Sugaru Miaki Manga: Shoichi Taguchi
("Three Days of Happiness" from Media Works Bunko)
Character Design: E9L / Shoichi Taguchi



Himeno.
...Kusu-noki?